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**THE MISSION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
*is to pursue excellence
in academic knowledge,
skills, and behavior
for each student,
resulting in measured
improvement against
local, national, and
world-class standards.*

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000
www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools
not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex,
religion, national origin, age, or disability in any
employment practice, educational program,
or any other program, activity, or service.

2010 and 2014 Winner of

the broad prize
for urban education



April 8, 2019

RE: Georgia Special Needs Scholarship

Dear Parent:

As the parent of a student who receives special education services in our school district, we would like to inform you about your option to exercise public and private school choice. Under a state law passed by the Georgia State Legislature in 2007, parents of students who receive special education services may request to transfer their child to another public or private school in Georgia if their child has an IEP and has been enrolled for a full academic year in a Georgia public school. Three options are described below.

Public School Choice / Intra-School Transfer Option

A parent can request their child to transfer to another public school within their school district as long as there is available space at that school and the school has a program with the services that are in the student's existing individualized education program (IEP). Consult GCPS website for a list of schools that are eligible to accept student transfers. In addition, the specific program within the school must also have available space. Please see link <http://www.gadoe.org/external-affairs-and-policy/policy/pages/special-needs-scholarship-program.aspx> for complete student eligibility criteria. If the parent chooses this option, then **the parent shall be responsible for transportation**. Parents who wish to consider this option must submit the attached request form via fax or U.S. mail by midnight on **June 7, 2019** to:

*Gwinnett County Public Schools
ATTN: Special Education Department / SB10
437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
Fax: 678-301-7222*

Private School Choice Option

Parents who are interested in transferring their child to a private school in Georgia may be able to take advantage of a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship. These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the state of Georgia. Eligibility will be determined by using the scholarship calculator on the GSNS website. Please go to Georgia DOE website - <http://www.gadoe.org/external-affairs-and-policy/policy/pages/special-needs-scholarship-program.aspx>

Inter-District Transfers (Outside of School System) Option

Parents may request a transfer to a school in another school district if there is available space and the system/school has the program with the services in the student's existing individualized education program (IEP). However, the school district must agree to accept the student. If the parent chooses this option and the school district accepts the child, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation. If you are interested in your child attending a school in another system, please contact that system directly.

A parent may also request a transfer to one of the state schools for the deaf and/or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a state school will depend on whether the setting is appropriate for the student's needs. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information about transferring to a State School.

If you are interested in the **Private School Choice Option** or the **Other Public School Choice Option**, please visit the Georgia DOE website at <http://www.gadoe.org/external-affairs-and-policy/policy/pages/special-needs-scholarship-program.aspx> for further directions. If you are interested in the GCPS **Intra-School Transfer Option**, please complete the attached form and return it to our office by midnight, June 7, 2019. All requests will be reviewed simultaneously and you will be notified of the decision by the week of July 8, 2019 via U.S. Mail.

Gwinnett County Public Schools' long and successful history of providing exceptional services to our special education students and their families is a legacy we are proud to share with you. We look forward to the opportunity to continue serving your child to the best of our ability both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kane

Department of Special Education and Psychological Services